

CANADIAN ANGLICAN BISHOPS WANT TO AFFIRM HOMOSEXUALS

June 3, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

According to a survey published in April by the Anglican Church of Canada, two-thirds of Canada's Anglican bishops want the denomination's guidelines on the ordination of homosexuals loosened. The existing guidelines, authorized in 1979, state that all people are equal before God, but add: "Our acceptance of persons with homosexual orientation is not an acceptance of homosexual activity" (Ecumenical News International, April 30, 1997). The guidelines state that a gay man or lesbian woman can be ordained "if there has been a commitment to the bishop to abstain from sexual acts with persons of the same sex."

The majority of bishops who completed the survey "said the guidelines should be revised to retain their 'original intention' but in a way that expressed 'a wider context of theological understanding and pastoral sensitivity'" (Ibid.). More than half of the bishops believed the denomination should apologize to the homosexual community for "insensitivity and hostility originating in the church."

The results of the survey will be examined by a task force which will draft a message to the Anglican denomination in Canada about relationships, to be made public later this year.